

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KABUL 05402 031336Z
ACTION SS-25

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O 031247Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8881
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T KABUL 5402

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP, AF
SUBJECT: UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM'S TRIP

REF: A) STATE 166228; B) KABUL 5277

1. I MUST REPORT THAT AS OF 1630 HOURS, JULY 3 (KABUL TIME) I HAVE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL IN SEEING FONMIN AMIN AGAIN OR GETTING ANY GUIDANCE AT A LOWER FOREIGN MINISTRY LEVEL ON UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM'S TRIP.

2. READERS OF REF B WILL REMEMBER THAT FONMIN AMIN RECEIVED ME ON JUNE 29 ON SHORT NOTICE AND PROMISED TO GET BACK TO ME ON JULY 1. WE AGREED THAT I WOULD CONFIRM BY DIPLOMATIC NOTE EARLY ON JULY 1 THE DATES OF UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM'S TRIP AND PROVIDE BIO DATA ON THE UNDER SECRETARY. THIS WE DID AS PROMISED. THE ONLY NEW PIECE OF INFORMATION I INCLUDED IN THE NOTE WAS THE CHANGE IN HIS ARRIVAL PLANS FROM COMING IN ON ARIANA'S MID-AFTERNOON FLIGHT TO ARRIVING ON THE EMBASSY TEHRAN ATTACHE AIRCRAFT.

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3. VISITS TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY STARTING JULY 1 BY THE ACTING DCM AND REPEATED PHONE CALLS TO THAT MINISTRY FOR NEWS ABOUT THE NEWSOM VISIT HAVE PROVED UNPRODUCTIVE. SINCE EARLY JULY 3, I HAVE GOTTEN IN THE ACT, REQUESTING TWICE TODAY AN URGENT APPOINTMENT WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER ON WASHINGTON'S INSTRUCTIONS, BUT SO FAR WITHOUT SUCCESS.

4. I DO NOT KNOW WHAT THE HOLDUP IS. ONE POSSIBILITY IS THAT OUR REQUEST THAT THE BEEHCRAFT FLY IN THE UNDER SECRETARY HAS THROWN THEM INTO CONSTERNATION. AS THE DEPARTMENT KNOWS, THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON JUNE 27, TURNED DOWN A REQUEST THAT WE USE THIS EMBASSY'S BEEHCRAFT FOR A PROFICIENCY FLIGHT, PENDING CLARIFICATION OF THE ORIGINAL BILATERAL AGREEMENTS FOR STATIONING THE AIRCRAFT HERE. ANOTHER POSSIBLE REASON FOR THE DELAY IS PREOCCUPATION OVER THE PURGE APPARENTLY OCCURRING OF BABRAK-FACTION MEMBERS IN THE GOVERNMENT. THE CABINET APPARENTLY MET ALL DAY JULY 2, WHILE THE SMALLER POLITBUREAU WAS IN SESSION THE DAY BEFORE. SINCE AMIN IS SECOND ONLY TO PREMIER TARAHI IN TERMS OF REAL POWER, HE MAY BE SO BUSY WITH INTERNAL MATTERS HE HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO REFOCUS ON THE UNDER SECRETARY'S TRIP. ALSO, WE KNOW THE CUBANS HAVE A SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE IN TOWN TAKING UP SOME OF AMIN'S TIME.

5. I WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS ON THIS MATTER TOMORROW, JULY 4TH, AND IF NECESSARY WILL RAISE IT DURING MY HOSTING OF OUR INDEPENDENCE DAY RECEPTION AT 1300 HOURS, WITH ANY HIGH LEVEL FOREIGN MINISTRY PERSON WHO MAY APPEAR. AT THIS MOMENT WE DO NOT KNOW WHICH OFFICIALS WILL BE ATTENDING. A LOWER RANKING FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL INFORMED US YESTERDAY THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD NOT YET
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DECIDED WHO COULD ATTEND OTHER THAN THREE AS YET UNDISCLOSED MINISTERS.

6. NOTWITHSTANDING THE FRUSTRATING DELAYS OF THE LAST THREE DAYS, I FEEL CONFIDENT MR. NEWSOM WILL STILL BE ABLE TO COME, ALTHOUGH IT IS CONCEIVABLE THE AFGHANS WILL TURN DOWN THE BEEHCRAFT TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENT.
AMSTUTZ

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NNN

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